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HOUSE MEMORIAL 63

48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2008

INTRODUCED BY

Antonio "Moe" Maestas

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS DEPARTMENT TO CONTINUE THE TASK FORCE ON EMPLOYMENT BARRIERS FOR PERSONS WITH CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS CREATED IN THE 2007 LEGISLATIVE SESSION BY HOUSE MEMORIAL 41 AND SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 4.

WHEREAS, the legislature created the task force on employment barriers for persons with criminal convictions in the first session of the forty-eighth legislature; and

WHEREAS, the work of that task force is not yet complete but remains critically important; and

WHEREAS, the task force was created in order to improve the effectiveness of facilitating the reentry of persons with criminal convictions into communities, reducing the incidence of recidivism and helping those with criminal convictions attain skills and connections to achieve a successful reentry

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1 into their communities; and

2 WHEREAS, the task force should review clearance
3 regulations for all state agencies and local public bodies to
4 evaluate whether existing barriers to successful reentry into
5 the workplace are related to the safety, trust and
6 responsibility required at a job and to determine whether a
7 less restrictive approach could protect the public while
8 preserving employment opportunities; and

9 WHEREAS, the task force should also develop and
10 administer, in coordination with the New Mexico municipal
11 league and the New Mexico association of counties, a survey to
12 obtain information from local public bodies, community colleges
13 and state-funded universities on how their hiring practices
14 could affect persons with criminal convictions; and

15 WHEREAS, the task force should review admissions and other
16 community college and state-funded university requirements to
17 ensure that persons with criminal convictions are not
18 prohibited from attending or taking classes, or selecting
19 career paths; and

20 WHEREAS, the task force should investigate and develop a
21 proposal for a New Mexico civic justice conservation corps and
22 community custody program to provide full-time paid
23 opportunities for people transitioning out of prison; and

24 WHEREAS, the task force should also study the
25 effectiveness of establishing an independent office of advocacy

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1 that is administratively attached to the workforce solutions
2 department and the possibility of establishing a commission to
3 oversee the office of advocacy; and

4 WHEREAS, the task force should, if feasible, host a public
5 sector job fair in collaboration with the state personnel
6 office, the corrections department, the city of Albuquerque and
7 Bernalillo county to assist persons with criminal convictions
8 in obtaining employment and pursuing career paths;

9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
10 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the secretary
11 of workforce solutions be encouraged to continue to convene,
12 staff and participate with the task force on employment
13 barriers for persons with criminal convictions; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be requested to
15 present its findings and recommendations to the appropriate
16 interim legislative committee no later than November 1, 2008,
17 including its recommendations on lifting statutory barriers to
18 public employment, waiver or review mechanisms available to
19 persons with convictions and reforms and changes that may be
20 adopted to remove barriers and enable offenders to demonstrate
21 their rehabilitation; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
23 transmitted to the secretary of workforce solutions, current
24 task force participants, the superintendent of regulation and
25 licensing and the director of the personnel board.

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